

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00169 110451Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: REPORTED REMARKS OF FAROUK KADDOUMI ON THE FUTURE
OF PALESTINIANS

1. KUWAIT DAILY AL QABAS OF JANUARY 10 REPORTS FOLLOWING
REMARKS BY PLO LEADER FAROUK KADDOUMI, ALLEGEDLY MADE IN
UNDATED INTERVIEW IN BEIRUT:

A. PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) WILL BE
INCREASED BY ABOUT 120 NEW MEMBERS TO TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 300,
WITH "LION'S SHARE" OF NEW MEMBERS GOING TO THE "REFUGEES,
INDEPENDENTS AND POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS" AND A NUMBER OF SEATS
ALLOTTED TO CONSTITUENCIES IN "OLD AND NEW" OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
IN ISRAEL AND ON WEST BANK, AND TO THE EAST BANK POPULACE.

B. RECENT MEETING OF PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL IN DAMASCUS
WAS OCCASION FOR CONSIDERABLE SOUL SEARCHING ABOUT THE LEBANESE
EXPERIENCE, AND IT DISCUSSED ARAB GOVERNMENT'S CRITICISM OF
PALESTINIANS, BUT THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS POSITIVE. IT
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00169 110451Z

AGREED ON THE NEED TO RETAIN THE CONFRONTATION ALLIANCE, CONSIST-
ING OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND "PALESTINE".

C. THE REJECTION FRONT WILL NOT BE "LIQUIDATED"; THE PLO PRO-
TECTS THE RIGHT OF INTERNAL DISSENT.

D. RUMORS ABOUT SPLITS IN THE FATAH LEADERSHIP ARE FALSE,

PLANTED BY ENEMIES.

E. REGARDING A PROVISIONAL PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE THREE PRECONDITIONS: "LAND"; CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES; AND THE APPROVAL OF "SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED STATES". EVERYONE AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY ISSUE IS TIMING, SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A "POLITICAL BOMB" WHICH "MUST BE EXPLODED AT THE RIGHT TIME."

F. THE PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HAS HAD NO CONNECTION WITH RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS, BUT IT KNOWS THAT CONTACTS WERE MADE WITH MEMBERS OF ISRAELI RAKAH PARTY, AND IS AWARE OF OTHER CONTACTS (WHICH APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS).

G. CONCERNING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN, THE "QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE," WHICH DERIVED FROM THE CAIRO ARAB SUMMIT, DECIDED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD "ACQUIRED RIGHTS" IN JORDAN, BECAUSE OF THE BASIC FACT THAT IT IS "NOT EASY TO SEPARATE PALESTINIANS FROM JORDANIANS." HOWEVER, THE FIRST PALESTINIAN STEP WILL BE TO SET UP AN "INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE," AND ONLY THEN WILL A REFERENDUM ON ANY "UNITY PROJECT" BE PUT TO THE PALESTINIAN VOTERS. IN ANY CASE, JORDAN WOULD HAVE TO PERMIT "OUT POLITICAL AND MILITARY PRESENCE."

H. THE PLO WILL NOT ATTEND A GENEVA CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, IN LINE WITH THE DECISION WHICH THE TWELFTH PNC TOOK TO REJECT UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242.
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 00169 110451Z

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